

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Meeting on January 7th

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Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting
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KL7G CODE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Schedule: 7:00am, 10:00am, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm
 AK time, every day Frequencies: 3575 kHz, 7075 kHz &
 145.35 MHz: Sending Speeds: 22 wpm, 15 wpm, 7 wpm

Nets in Alaska:

The following nets are active in South-central Alaska:
 Alaska Sniper's Net 3.920 MHz 6:00 PM daily
 Alaska Bush Net 7.093 MHz 8:00 PM daily
 Alaska Motley Net 3.933 MHz 9:00 PM daily
 Alaska Pacific Emergency Preparedness Net 14.292 MHz
 8:00 AM M-F
 QCWA net 146.97/.37 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM local
 850 No Name Net 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM
 Son of Sideband Net 144.20 USB Mondays 9:00 PM local
 Big City Simplex Net 146.520 FM Tuesdays 8:00 PM local
 ARES net 147.30/.90 MHz Thursdays at 8:00 PM local
 PARKA net 147.30/.90 MHz Thursdays at 9:00 PM local

Anchorage & Mat Valley Area Repeaters

KL7AA systems at Flattop Mt., 2,200 ft
 146.34/94 MHz, 80 watts, autopatch, 100/141.3 Hz PL
 223.34/224.94, 25 watts, no patch, no PL
444.70/449.70, 25 watts, autopatch, 100/141.3 PL
 KL7ION at Mt. Gordon Lyon 4,700 ft
147.30/90 MHz - 80 watts, no patch, no PL
 KL7AA, Mt. Alyeska, 2,400 ft.
146.16/76 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL
 KL7CC, Anchorage Hillside, SCRC club
temporary down 146.97/.37 MHz, autopatch, 103.5 Hz PL
 KL7DJE at Grubstake Peak, 4,500 ft.
 147.09/.69 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 100 Hz PL
446.925/449.925, 10 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL
 KL7JFU, KGB road, MARA club
146.85/.25, autopatch, no PL
 KL7AIR Elmendorf, EARS
146.67/.27, 1072. Hz PL
 KL7G West Anchorage & Events
449.65/444.65 MHz, patch, no PL

Anchorage & Mat Valley Simplex Frequencies

146.52 Mhz Calling and Emergency frequency
 147.57 / 447.57 (crossband linked) HF spotters & chat
 146.49 Mhz Anchorage area simplex chat
 146.41 MHz Mat Valley simplex chat

there, just take the South Peters Creek exit to the east and on the frontage road north to 1st right, Chickadee Lane. The hours will be announced, orders can be taken anytime.

There will be a full line of Arrow and Shoestring Antenna products, V.I.S. flash cards along with used, consignment and more.

Just a quick note .Today ups delivered my new MFJ259-b HF/VHF SWR Analyzer.

This will go into the rental service (\$20.00/48 hours). Also in rental are Tower jack, leg aligner and guy wire tensioning kit, torque wrench and soon a gin pole.

Club Call Hoarding Hall of Shame

As a Virginia Tech alumnus, I have really enjoyed watching football this season. Whether the Hodies end up as #1 or lower, it has been fun to watch them rise from relative to the top part of the heap. On the other hand, it has not been fun watching the Washington Redskins. Whereas the Flying Gobblers from Blacksburg have a solid defense, the Skins have perfected the Sieve. But this is not the *Worldradio Sports Column*, so let's explore an Amateur Radio phenomenon for which there is no defense...collecting club station call signs.

In the few months since *Worldradio* blew the lid off the club station scandal, the full extent of this flagrant abuse of the FCC's casual licensing oversight has revealed some unbelievable examples of call sign hoarding by Hams who seem to collect more clubs than a professional golfer.

My favorite collector has to be Extra class licensee Motoaki Uotome, W9BO, who is also licensed in Japan as JA1GZV. After his odd hobby was exposed, he turned in 41 club station call signs. On 13 July, the FCC requested that he justify the licenses, which were assigned to clubs with mailing addresses all over the U.S., as well as Guam and the Marianas islands. Some of the "clubs" appear to have held more than one call sign...well, at least some were located at the same address. Rather than present any explanation, he just turned them in...No Defense! The next time you run into W9BO, W3AN (the one club call the FCC let him keep...perhaps as a souvenir), or JA1GZV, you might want to inquire just what he was doing with all those call signs.

Running a distant (but still ambitious) second was Extra class licensee Dean Manley, KH6B, who was the proud holder of at least 21 club station call signs when the FCC requested 22 July that he explain the prolific collection or surrender the excess. Maybe there is something about the Pacific Rim that encourages call sign hoarding. Perhaps the fear that an earthquake or Tsunami might wipe out some of the clubs encouraged the accumulation of a few spares.

Giving new meaning to the team concept of call sign collecting is the Tucker clan of La Mirada, CA. The five licensed Hams in this family managed to accumulate at least 27 club call signs before the FCC caught on last June. Kathryn Tucker, AA6TK, and Roy T. Tucker, N6TK, led the pack with nine club call signs. Kent Tucker, AA6KT, and Eric Tucker, AA6ET, each held eight, with the less ambitious Nancy Tucker, W5NAN, accounting for only two. Nancy's underachieving in the family club call marathon may have something to do with the fact that she was the only Tech Plus licensee, while all the others hold Extra class licenses.

When it comes to clubs in the Ether, California is the champ. In late October, Extra licensee James Roach, KD6VWK, of San Juan Capistrano requested that the FCC cancel nine club station call signs assigned to the Ortega Wireless League. Roach sought to keep four call signs assigned to that club as well as two other call signs (W6BSA and W6GS) assigned to two other clubs for which he is the trustee. When Thomas Reynolds, KF6UJP, of Covina, CA, failed to justify obtaining four club calls six months, the FCC canceled the calls. William Freely, K6HMS, of Newport Beach had to answer to the FCC for 10 call signs, while John Zittelberger, W6GL, of Thousand Oaks got called on the FCC carpet for five club calls. Steve Massey, N6TT, of Manhattan Beach gave up nine call signs and has several more that the FCC is investigating. If you are keeping track, both Freely, Massey, and Zittelberger hold - you guessed it - Amateur Extra licenses.

Call sign hoarding has not been exclusive to California. Advanced class licensee James Schliestett, W4IMQ of Cedartown, GA, got a letter from the FCC canceling (at his request) eight club station call signs, and still must justify two other calls. Five club station licenses held by Joseph A. Keller, W8WW, of Lake Worth, FL, have been canceled by the FCC because he failed to justify holding the call signs. He sent some stuff to the FCC, but Legal Watchdog Riley Hollingsworth noted in a letter to Deller that "the documents of origination you submitted for KG4ABE, W4EPO, and KF4ZXP were unsigned and undated. The documents you submitted for W3VKS and W1GAS were unsigned." No defense!

The FCC has also requested that Extra licensee William Shipley, N4WS, of Cookeville, TN provide justification in writing for at least six club station call signs for which he is the responsible party. A similar letter went to Paul Kluwe, W8ZO, of Manchester, MI, the holder of four club calls.

Setting a good example for hoarders, Dwaine Modock, K8ME, of North Royalton, OH, did the right thing by unilaterally submitting 18 club station licenses for cancellation. Hollingsworth actually wrote to Modock thanking him for his "voluntary cooperation in our audit of the club call sign program."

The specific requirements for a club station under Part 97.5(b)(2) of the FCC regulations are crystal clear: "A club station license grant may be held only by the person who is the license trustee designated by an officer of that club.

The trustee must be a person who holds an Amateur Extra, Advanced, General, Technician Plus, or Technician operator license grant. The club must be composed of at least four persons and must have a name, a document of organization, management, and a primary purpose devoted to amateur service activities consistent with this part."

In other words, a single person cannot qualify for a club license. There has to be a real club and it must have at least four members. Do the math. If a single amateur is trustee for 10 club calls, there have to be at least 40 Hams (or others involved in Amateur Radio activities) who are pursuing some "amateur service activities." The last time I reviewed all of the various activities that Hams can lawfully engaged, call sign collecting was missing from the list. In simple terms, justifying more than one call sign for a club is a tough challenge. From the number of collectors who simply turned in their "extra" call signs or let the FCC cancel them without submitting the requested written justification, there seems little doubt that most of the "clubs" had no real membership or Ham activities.

Getting a club call sign should not be easy. Under FCC regulations Part 97.17(b)(2), the FCC has set up a screening committee approach to granting club call signs that should put an end to the proliferation of phony club calls. The regs require that each new club or military recreation station license applicant must present "all information required by the rules to an Amateur Radio organization having tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that provides voluntary, uncompensated and unreimbursed services in providing club and military recreation station call signs ("Club Station Call Sign Administrator") who must submit the information to the FCC in an electronic batch file. The Club Station Call Sign Administrator may collect the information required by these rules in any manner of their choosing, including creating their own forms. The Club Station Call Sign Administrator must retain the applicant's information for at least 15 months and make it available to the FCC upon request. The FCC will issue a public announcements listing the qualified organizations that have completed a pilot autogrant batch filing project and are authorized to serve as a Club Station Call Sign Administrator."

Of course, there is no justification for having a club call sign for a non-existent club. And just getting a few Ham friends to sign up as members of a club that never meets or conducts any activities is a sham... and is unlawful under the FCC regs. However, I am not close-minded. If there is a real justification for holding more than one call sign for a legitimate club, I'd like to hear it. Send me an e-mail... if it makes sense, I'll publish it here.

If the FCC's approach to assigning club calls through certified Club Station Call Sign Administrators works, the Club Call Hoarding Hall of Shame will disappear. The current audit being conducted by the FCC will weed out the current crop of collectors. Hopefully, as the word gets out, amateurs who have club calls for essentially "personal"

use will realize that the game is up and just turn in their excess calls.

—David Splitt, KE3VV, can be reached by mail at: 611 Utah Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20015; You can also reach him by e-mail at: ke3vv@compuserve.com

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We Should be Ashamed of Ourselves *WorldRadio*

(WorldRadio editor note. This was forwarded to Worldradio by Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF. "Jimmy K.", the author is unknown. How many times have you heard a new call on a repeater, and chose to ignore it because it was an unfamiliar call? We all should be ashamed of ourselves! This isn't supposed to happen in Amateur Radio.)

"I just wanted to share a little story regarding my experiences with Ham radio. Help me make a fair assessment.

"I have been a Ham for about a year now. I remember I couldn't wait to get my callsign after passing the exam, and the pride I felt with that ticket came in the mail and I could get on the air. From there, though, it went downhill quick.

"So I get on the air. Aside from one nice gentleman who chatted with me several times on a local repeater, I can't get anyone to respond. "K---- monitoring" I call, over and over. Maybe I'm not getting out, I thought, but a quick grab of my HT to listen to the output of the repeater(s) I key up ensures I'm loud and clear. Nobody answers, until I call again and again and finally someone gets tired of hearing me call and decides they'll speak with a stranger. Seems that if you're not a "regular" whom everyone knows, nobody's interested in responding.

"So I figured if I got to know some of the other Hams, someone may want to talk to me. I get on the internet and find the website of a local club. It advertises a meeting that night! Great, I thought, and headed straight to the location right after work. But nobody's at the location. Must have moved, I think, so I get on the air and call. And call. And call some more on the most heavily used repeater on the metro area (1 million+ population). A quick grab of my HT again confirms I'm full quieting into the repeater. Another 30 minutes of calling and a rather irritated gentleman advises that the meeting's been moved, and that he's there, but advises it's a party for the club, and reservations needed to be made in advance. Discouraged, I head home.

"Then I thought maybe I should get involved in a local Ham radio function. This was a good idea, as a leader of the local club was on the air asking for volunteers to work with them at a Christmas parade-type function in a couple of weeks. I cheerfully volunteered, and the man took my name and number over the air. He said he'd call soon with details when the volunteer roster was complete, but no call ever came, either on the air or by phone. So I assumed they didn't need any more help. I attended the parade with my wife and

approached one of the Hams working and attempted friendly conversation. I was told rather standoffishly that I could have "helped, all I'd have to do is get a Ham license. The guy just assumed that because I didn't have wires and antennas hanging off my body, and wasn't either elderly or handicapped, I must not be a Ham.

"With my faith in Ham radio in question, I didn't get on the air for several months. Then I began traveling. Thought it would be nice to meet other Hams on the road, so at high points I would call "CQ" on 146.52 simplex. And called and called and called. After about a month of doing this daily while driving, I made a contact! The gentleman was very friendly and interesting, but told me about calling on simplex 146.52, "nobody ever monitors that anymore." I figured I'd have better luck with the CB, and sure enough I did.

"Later that month I broke down on the side of the road outside of San Antonio TX. I happened to know that San Antonio has wide-area coverage on 146.94, so I keyed up the machine (again full quieting) and called CQ, then called "emergency" then "mayday." No answer. I held down the 0 DTMF key for 5 seconds and called again—still no answer. So I check other repeaters. The only other one I could reach was being occupied by someone who just loved to bring up the autopatch unidentified, dial numbers at random, then it bring it down, over and over. Listened a little longer and found it was a kid playing with the autopatch. So I call 146.52, since I'm on an interstate (must be Hams on the road, it's a holiday weekend). I called until I was blue in the face. No response there either. So, I gave up. The CB brought a tow truck in about 5 min.

"So I guess my point is that I don't want to hear any more of the "long-timers" whining about Ham radio being a "dying breed", and that nobody in their 20-40's is interested any

more. I'm a very technically competent, friendly, and personable individual, and I felt as though I had something to contribute by being involved in Ham radio. There was someone what WAS interested (me), and tried earnestly to get involved and participate, but frankly, I find more responsive, friendly, and helpful people on CB."—Jimmy K.

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This is Not a Drill
Virginia Hall, KD6YLT

The weekend of 14-15 August 1999, the Victor Valley (CA) Search and Rescue Unit 212 held an overnight training exercise in Turtle Valley, a popular off-road vehicle area. On Saturday evening, for two-man teams deployed for a passive all-night search. The command post was set up with the Incident Commander, the Unit Commander, the Training Officer and a volunteer "victim." Around 11 p.m. they were discussing the introduction of the victim into Team 1's camp site when an all terrain vehicle (ATV) came into the command post area. The young rider explained that there had been a roll over traffic accident on the dirt road not far

away. Earlier that day, he had noticed all of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department vehicles and he thought he might be able to get help from us.

Tom Crais, KF6QJQ, the training officers and an emergency medical technician (EMT) went to get his emergency medical bag out of the medical trailer. Meanwhile, Mike Cimmarusti, KF6OXR, the unit Commander said that the ATV rider should lead them back to the scene of the accident. Bob Hall, KD6RCD, the Incident Commander was already on his Ham radio. Announcing "This is not a drill," he contacted safety officers who were up on higher grounds, acting as relays. James Pike, KB6WHT, answered the radio call, and Bob explained the need for contacting a repeater in the area for the emergency. The other safety officer, Denny Wells, KN6HB successfully contacted a mobile 911 operator on his cellular phone. Bob next contacted Team 3 to alert Dave Zook, an EMT, to get ready and stand by to be picked up and transported to the accident site. The other member of Team 3, Ron thy, KC6OPU, took the message. Having a Ham on every tear deployed has long been a practice of Unit 212.

By this time, Mike and Tom were at the accident scene. Tom was sending medical information to the command post to be passed to the paramedics who were en route. Our second EMT, Dave, arrived and was also helping the victim before the paramedics arrived. Mike, having delivered both EMTs to the scene, then proceeded to the intersection of Hodge Road and I-15 to lead the emergency responders to the site. By the time the paramedics arrived, Tom and Dave had the victim ready for transport. The victim had lost a great deal of blood from his severely lacerated left arm and hand. He had been driving with his arm out of the window at the time of the accident. His passenger seemed to have escaped injury.

It is certainly possible that the communication and medical skills of our Search and Rescue unit saved a life. How fortunate for the injured driver that our team was nearby and was summoned. We did not get the name of the victim, or the name of the ATV rider who had the presence of mind to come and get us. We are very happy that we were able to help in a real emergency in a professional and meaningful way. Certainly, Amateur Radio once again proved its value in coordinating an emergency response to an unexpected situation.

As stated earlier, the value of having an Amateur Radio operator on every team we deploy has proved valuable. Some of the 34 current members of our team were already Hams when they joined the Victor Valley Search and Rescue team. After seeing Amateur Radio in action, an ever-growing number of the team members have become licensed Hams over the past few years. We now have 19 Amateur Radio operators and even more are planning to become Hams.

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for almost a century. In case you have not guessed it, that service is our own, beloved, Amateur Radio.

For those of you unaware, I work in television broadcasting, a business fighting for less telecommunications regulation. TV corporations want the right to possess as many television stations and other public media properties as they can afford to own or establish—doing so without any interference from “Uncle Sam.” As a result of the lobbying efforts of the telecommunications giants, the government, in the face of an agency called the Federal Communications Commission, came to the realization over two decades ago that it was time to loosen its tight grip on every aspect of telecommunications.

The first experiment in “deregulation” was, and continues to be, a dismal disaster. Obviously, I am referring to the late 70’s decision to ‘delicense’ users of Part 97 Class D Citizens radio. CB was the “wild wild west” of telecommunications. The FCC did not have the time, money, nor inclination to chase after the millions of day-to-day “CB Bandits” brought to the airwaves by a combination of rising fuel prices, the hope that using a “radio” would lead a person to less expensive fuel and the glorification of the CB law breaker by Hollywood. As a result, almost every one of your neighbors had a \$29.95 Hong Kong-built CB under the dash and a 42-inch base-loaded whip on the rear deck.

Today, CB is but a shadow of its own past. It is still an unregulated messy situation that the government seems to have decided to let die in its own waste products. But through this mistake the government learned a lot. The most important lesson being that deregulation must be evolutionary rather than revolutionary. The FCC found out one cannot turn the asylum over to the inmates and expect any sort of sanity. As a result, it decided to move at a far slower pace in future deregulation matters.

While this angered big business in its quest for quicker profits, it has proven a viable alternative in all areas save one. Not only has deregulation brought further wealth to existing telecommunications giants, it has spawned competition, to the creation of a number of related industries; lowered consumer telecommunications costs and given rise to millions of new jobs. Deregulation has been very good for the U.S. economy. In this writer’s view, it more than justifies the sacrifice of the Class D Citizens Radio Service to the dregs which it eventually reached.

But in its zeal to deregulate, the FCC forgot to ask a simple question of itself—“Do all of those that we regulate want to be deregulated?” If they had asked this of Amateur Radio, they would probably have been surprised to hear a loud and resounding “NO!”

I guess I am one of the very few in Amateur Radio who really believes that deregulation is good for the service. I know that for the service to survive it has to justify on an ongoing basis its need for every Hz of spectrum assigned to it. As such, in deregulation I see the possibilities of growth that parallel those of other telecommunications services. I envision millions of new Hams, young Hams, in their teens, eager to carry the service into this new century and beyond. I

also am a “real world capitalist” who believes that there is nothing wrong with some people, like those who sell us the equipment we use and the magazines we read, making a livable profit on their endeavors. And many times I feel that I am truly alone.

After years of observing the U.S. Amateur Radio Service and writing about it, I have come to the conclusion that most Hams not only oppose deregulation, but also want a total and highly structured re-regulation of those who operate radio gear under the Part 97 rules. And to say that this view will lead to the demise of our beloved hobby is probably the first understatement of the year 2000. And of course we will have to see the impact that the FCC’s long awaited restructuring of Amateur Radio has on the service in years to come.

FCC Acts to Stop International Jamming

As this is written in mid-November, it’s almost a month since the FCC has begun action to end what it deems as on-channel harassment to a Mexican repeater by a new, uncoordinated repeater in the U.S. The U.S. Amateurs say that they have every right to co-channel with the Mexican group, but the FCC disagrees. Acting on complaints filed by Mexican radio amateurs, the FCC is alleging that two California amateurs operating a 2-meter repeater under two calls are willfully interfering with the operation of the long established system south of the border.

The charges came in a 12 October letter from the FCC’s Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, to Angos Winke, KC6OKA, of Los Angeles, and on 20 October a similar letter was mailed to Scott Swanson, K6PYP, of Pacific Palisades. Of the two, Hollingsworth’s letter to Winke is the more poignant. It says his agency has information indicating that Winke is the operator of a repeater system on frequencies of 144.860 in and 145.560 MHz out that also identifies itself as K6PYP. The FCC official says his bureau has evidence indicating that, as licensee and control operator of this repeater system, Winke has engaged in broadcasting and playing music, transmitting tape recordings, the use of high power base systems and unmodulated carriers to deliberately interfere with the repeater in Mexico. (That machine is XE2CCH on Mount San Antonio—a repeater providing international service to radio amateurs since 1979!)

Hollingsworth says the FCC also has knowledge that the use of these frequencies is contrary to a long-standing voluntary frequency plan established in cooperation with Mexico to protect repeaters that operate near the U.S.-Mexico border. He says the U.S. and Mexico work closely in radio communications matters and have enjoyed a long and effective relationship. As such, says Hollingsworth, the FCC will not tolerate that relationship being jeopardized and will not tolerate deliberate interference from amateur service licensees.

While he stopped short of ordering Winke and Swanson to remove the repeater from the air at that time, Hollingsworth’s letter forced both Hams to justify the very

existence of this repeater in the Los Angeles system by ordering them to respond within 30 days to a series of questions regarding every aspect of the repeater's operation. The response period is still open to Mr. Swanson, so it will probably be a matter to continue in our next column—if Hollingsworth takes action before our next deadline.

Before leaving this matter, I would be less than fair to Mr. Winke and Mr. Swanson if I were not to say that the FCC does not have the full support of the entire Southern California 2-meter FM community in this action. In fact, there have been some reports of some Hams saying that the overcrowding on the 2-meter band in Southern California makes this, and any other frequency pair not in use in the Los Angeles to San Diego RF corridor, as "fair game" for new local repeaters—coordinated or not.

And while nothing official has been heard from KC6OKA or K6PYP, others on the system are vowing a legal fight if the FCC tries to take this machine off the air.

FCC Releases New Spread Spectrum Rules

Last fall the FCC has relaxed rules governing the use of spread spectrum techniques by radio amateurs. In doing this, it may have also opened the door to the possibility of international spread spectrum communication.

The new rules are fairly broad, but they do require that spread spectrum stations running more than one watt incorporate automatic transmitter control. Amateur stations using the mode are also restricted to a maximum power of 100 watts. Stations employing spread spectrum techniques will remain secondary in status. As such, they must accept all interference from stations using other authorized modes. In other words, if you operate spread spectrum and get interfered with by a station on SSB, it's your problem, not his.

The FCC declined to authorize the use of spread spectrum techniques on additional bands or frequencies except those already in use. The FCC has amended the rules to eliminate what it calls the now-unnecessary record keeping and station identification requirements that apply only to stations using spread spectrum. In fact, the new rules let spread spectrum stations identify themselves using techniques developed within the Amateur Radio community.

The Report and Order in WT Docket 97-12 was adopted 31 August but released in early November. It concludes a proceeding that originated with an ARRL petition in December 1995 and has been pending since 1997. The new rules took effect last November.

FCC Enforcement—Oklahoma and Connecticut

The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth says the agency is making repeater interference cases a top priority and has already proven this to be the case with last fall's letters to several radio amateurs warning several of them about this problem.

In Oklahoma City, two Hams received warning notices from the FCC in late September alleging they are the source of interference to repeater operations. The letters went out to Paul M. Warren, N5WLK, and George F. Stephens, KC5RBK. Both notes say the FCC has evidence that Warren and Stephens deliberately and maliciously interfered with VHF repeater operations by making threats, playing tapes and rebroadcasting CB transmissions using their Amateur Radio stations.

William A. Lott, WA1LT of Thompson, Connecticut, also received a warning letter from Hollingsworth dated 23 September 1999, alleging that Lott has been deliberately and maliciously interfering with the Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association K1MUI VHF repeater.

SSB 2-meter World Record

A new world's distance record has been set on 2-meter single Sideband for a contact made to a station on the high seas. Paul Lieb, KH6HME, atop Hawaii's Mauna Loa Volcano in grid square BK29 contacted Clint Walker, W1LP, maritime mobile in grid DL51.

According to Chip Angle, N6CA, reporting over the *VHF Reflector*, grid square DL51 is two grids south of Cabo San Lucas. He says Clint had been hearing beacons for several hours prior to the contact. Signals peaked at only S-1 to S-2 over the 2,954 mile path but they are now in the record books as the one to beat.

Australia to the Midwest on 6 Meters

It happened late in the afternoon last 23 September. First Aurora! Then 6 Meters surprises many mid-western U.S. amateurs by exploding with a DX opening to end all openings. Would believe Australia to Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, on the 50 MHz band?

Well you had better believe it, because it did happen starting at 0030U. That's when K9APW in Wisconsin grid square EN53 worked VK4PU in Australian grid PG75 on 50.130 MHz SSB. Dick says he has been on 6 Meters since the early 1970's but this is the first really solid VK to nine-land opening he has ever heard.

Nor was K9APW the only station to make the path. Jay Hainline, KA9CFD, in Illinois grid EN40 reported that after listening to the aurora signals, he decided to turn his beam west. It was a smart move.

Jay immediately heard Australian and New Zealand stations. So he tuned up to 50.110 just as a VK4 station started calling CQ! In rapid succession starting at 0047U, Jay worked VK4FNQ, VK4DO, VK4ABW, VK4NW, VK4JH, VK4GPS, VK4KK, and VK4PU. He also heard VK4BRG. That station had been his one and only QSO with Australia from 1998. And to top it off JA3EGE in Japan said he heard Jay on backscatter as well.

Another lucky Ham was Mark Brown, KB0PYO, ir Echo, Minnesota. But it wasn't an echo that Mark was

hearing. He managed to catch VK4NW at 0105 and VK4KK at 0110U. Mark says VK4KK was in and out for over half an hour.

The band stayed open for almost an hour with numerous other mid-west U.S. stations contacting the folks down under. All in all, it was a great way to usher in the fall 1999 6-meter DX season. And now you know why they call 6 Meters "The Magic Band!"

Midland 'Weather Radio' Recall

If you are an amateur involved in SKY[W]ARN or any form of severe weather monitoring, then this product alert is for you. Midland Consumer Radio Inc., of Kansas City, MO, has recalled 9,000 incorrectly programmed weather radios. According to the Consumer Products Safety Commission which initiated the recall, the error can cause customers to miss important information about approaching severe weather.

Only Midland model 74-200 radios that have serial numbers beginning with 904 or 905 are being recalled. The commission recommends customers return the recalled radio to the original place of purchase for a new, correctly programmed, 74-200 radio. For more information, customers are advised to call Midland Consumer Radio at 877/302-1904.

The Best Repeater in Town

The best 6-meter repeater in North Carolina is the D4LBU system on Mount Mitchell in grid square EM85. According to Bill Fisher, KE4GRW, Mount Mitchell, at 6,600 feet in elevation, is the highest peak on the Eastern seaboard. The KD4LBU repeater, which sits atop it, operates on 53.630 in with a 100 Hz CTCSS tone required to open the receiver. The system transmits on 52.630 MHz with coverage into at least six states.

Brooklyn as a State of Mind

Last November, I began this column with an anecdote that occurred on a spring trip to my hometown of Brooklyn, New York. I was not aware that there was so much interest in Brooklyn until the mail and e-mail began pouring in—asking for more. Not from Brooklynites. They already know the place.

The mail was from people wanting to know what it was like to grow up in that part of the Big Apple then leave. I guess my feelings on this are best summed up in a short dissertation that I penned for "The Brooklyn Board." Please permit me to share it with you. Its title is "A State of Mind."

"Brooklyn is a state of mind that never leaves you. While you may wander far from it as I have, it is always with you. Both the good and the bad."

Those are a few of the words of a posting I made a year or so ago to an Internet remailer dedicated to my home town.

My remembrances of Brooklyn are grounded in Bensonhurst in the '40s, '50s, and '60s. I was born at the Israel Zion Hospital, grew up at 1530 West 8 Street, attended PS 247, Seth Low Junior High School, Lafayette High School, and did a year at New York City Community College (in the old Brooklyn Pickle Works building). Then I realized I was a "broadcast brat" at heart and was not happy with school. So I moved on.

Some of the Really Good Things

In junior high and high school I was a "class photographer." That got me out of class quite a bit so I could photograph our "teams" in action. I learned to view sporting events in reverse—on the ground glass finder of my Ricoh Diacord G twin lens reflex camera.

Thanks to the off-campus education garnered from the late Saul Rosenthal (Rose Radio and Photo on Bay Parkway), I not only learned how to take fairly good photos, but also how to fix those wondrous talking boxes called "radios."

Fixing radios, and later fixing television sets, led me to getting my Amateur Radio license (first licensed in 1959 as WA2HVK but have been WA6ITF since 1974) and, eventually into a career in broadcasting. But it also led me away from my native fields of brick and concrete to the other side of the nation that overlooks the mighty blue Pacific.

These days I watch over the technical end of an hour long television news program for KTTV Fox 11—the FOX flagship station in Los Angeles. You can find us at <http://www.fox11a.com>. I also write books and articles about Amateur Radio, communications, scripts for video and the like. But before I departed my Brooklyn I had many "growing up" adventures. Let me share a few.

I remember my first subway ride. I remember attending my first baseball game, the then "Brooklyn Dodgers", at Ebbets Field. I remember my first trip to Times Square to watch the New Year "ball" drop to ring out the old and ring in the new year. I vividly remember my first Macys' Thanksgiving Day Parade.

On a more personal note, I recall my very first date—with a real "girl!" We went to see a flick at the old Marlboro Theatre on Bay Parkway and then right next door to the soda shop for an "Egg Cream." (Phosphate to you living West of the Hudson River.) I think we were both about 15 or 16. I also think we kids were a bit more naive in our times than are the kids of today.

I recall a snow storm that closed all of the schools. The busses were not running so I had to walk to East 18 Street and K Avenue, to see my friend Larry Levy, WA2INM. We spent the afternoon and evening in his basement, playing with Ham radio. His mother, Carolyn, made dinner which I trudged back home to West 8th Street in the blinding snow that was still falling.

I recall the first time I really fell in love and, even more vividly, I recall the pain of breaking up and having to

say good-bye—a saga that plays out more than once in almost everyone's life.

But I recall the last time I fell in love, too. I was working for General Electric, fixing television sets, and walked into this GE dealer on 5th Avenue and 51st Street in Brooklyn to repair some floor stock. Behind the counter was this rather shy lady. For some reason we struck up a conversation and eventually became friends. Neither of us ever dreamed we would wind up spending most of our adult lives together as man and wife, but this September it will be 29 years.

My greatest personal memory of Brooklyn came one early morning in 1967.

I was coming home from visiting another ex-Brooklyn Ham radio operator whom I had grown up with and who had moved to New Mexico a few years earlier. I sat in Row 12, Seat A of a TWA Boeing 727-200 as it descended over Bayonne Bay, Staten Island and winged over Brooklyn as it made its way toward a rendezvous with the runway at La Guardia Airport.

I looked out, trying to spot my old neighborhood. The outline of two clouds were silhouetted on the ground and water below. And, I thought to myself, "...how calm and beautiful Brooklyn looks from up here."

I grabbed my camera and captured the moment. That photo hangs on my living room as a reminder that no matter where you are, Brooklyn is always with me. This is because Brooklyn is more than a place; it is a state of mind. So is your hometown to you.

Welcome to the 21st century.

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23 December 1999

Regulatory Commission of Alaska
Agnes Pitts, Chief
Consumer Protection and Public Information
1016 west 6th Avenue, Suite 400
Anchorage, AK 99501-1963

Reference: File C-99-448

Dear Ms. Pitts,

Thank you for your correspondence of December 22, 1999, regarding the reported Chugach power line generated radio interference.

The interference has, at least for the moment been eliminated by the Chugach crews. It was, however, major

sources of rf, as opposed to the "slightly measurable" amount reported.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

As in every case, it is far better to remedy these issues on a local basis wherever possible.

The Regulatory Commission should also be concerned that Public Utilities under the Commissions watch, operate in compliance with Federal Laws and Rules and Regulations.

A similar incident in California recently caused the Federal Communications Commission to take action. This involved radiation from Pacific Gas and Electric transmission lines causing radio interference of the same type as the radiation from the Chugach lines.

On November 22, the FCC's Consumer Center wrote PG & E Senior VP James K. Randolph, requesting the company to correct the problem "within a reasonable time."

Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth said the situation involved "a long history of non-response" by PG & E. He said the hams involved have "shown a lot of patience."

The FCC letter points out that the FCC encourages parties to resolve such problems "without FCC intervention" but says the FCC will step in when necessary.

The Commission's letter said: "The FCC has the responsibility to require that utility companies rectify such problems within a reasonable time if the interference is caused by faulty power utility equipment."

Under FCC Part 15, utilities and others that fall under its provisions are obliged to not cause harmful interference to licensed services and to cease operating a device that's causing harmful interference upon FCC notification. The FCC said its letter was intended as a reminder that the unresolved interference problem "may be a violation of FCC rules and could result in a monetary forfeiture for each occurrence."

There are other areas in the Anchorage bowl that we will be addressing in the future. Hopefully, Chugach will continue to be cooperative as we attempt to clean up these problems.

I am at your service, should you need any more information regarding radio interference.

Sincerely,

Del Seay NCE
8425 Jupiter
Anchorage, AK 99507

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ALASKA SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR
C/O ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 19-6614
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519-6614
907-333-4263 907-333-4663 FAX
E-mail bmans39031@aol.com

November 23, 1999

Paul Spatzek
Treasurer
Anchorage Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 101987
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1987

Dear Paul Spatzek:

Thank you very much for the very generous donation of \$4,165.00.

The Amateur Radio Club's continuing support of the Alaska Science and Engineering Fair (ASEF) is appreciated very much. Your donation will be properly recognized at our annual awards ceremony.

The ASEF will be held on March 17, 18, and 19, 2000. The ASEF will again be held at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

The ASEF could still use the technical skills of the talented members of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club as judges. Anyone interested in being a judge can contact Lee Reid, Chief Judge, at 907-272-5001 or they may contact me.

Again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Bill Mans
State Director

P.S. I just returned from a two week trip and just got through my mail, or I would have responded earlier. If you need another copy of our 501 C3 letter or any other information, please let me know.



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Organized 1986

On the Internet at <http://www.corecom.net/~asard>
December 5, 1999

Paul Spatzek, Treasurer
Anchorage Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 101987
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1987

Dear Paul,

On behalf of Alaska Search and Rescue Dogs, I wish to thank you and the members of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club for your generous donation of \$4,165.00 to ASARD. We are grateful for your support as one of your charitable organizations.

We will certainly put this money to good use, as we are in the process of evaluating our current and future radio equipment needs.

Under separate mailing, we have mailed you a group photo of ASARD taken last May while we underwent disaster search training in Anchorage with our guest trainer, Kevin George of Canada. We recently participated in two hunting season callouts on Kodiak. In one case, one of our training teams recovered the body of a hunter mauled by a bear. We are now training and preparing for the avalanche season. Always looking for training subjects, if any of your members wish to train with us, just call 275-DOGS (3647) to leave a message. We welcome assistance and are grateful for your financial support.

Sincerely,



Carol Jo Sanner
ASARD Treasurer



ALASKA KIDNEY FOUNDATION, INC.
A Private, Non-Profit Corporation

November 5, 1999

Mr. Paul M. Spatzek
Anchorage Amateur Radio Club
P. O. Box 101987
Anchorage AK 99510-1987

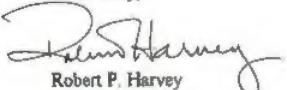
RE: Donation to the Alaska Kidney Foundation

Dear Mr. Spatzek:

I'm writing to acknowledge your donation and thank your organization for again contributing to the Alaska Kidney Foundation. Your donation of \$4,165.00 will be used to help fund the Foundation's programs. As you may know, the Foundation no longer operates the two outpatient dialysis facilities in Alaska. However, we still provide financial assistance to eligible Alaskan dialysis patients for paying their insurance premiums, obtaining pre-transplant dental services and obtaining prescribed nutritional supplements. We also provide the funds for each dialysis facility's Patient Emergency Fund. We plan to expand our current programs and establish new ones in the coming year.

On behalf of our organization and the Alaskans we serve, thanks again for your current and past support.

Yours truly,


Robert P. Harvey
Executive Director

November 19, 1999

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club
Attn: Paul Spatzek
PO Box 101987
Anchorage, AK 99510-1987

Dear Mr. Spatzek,

Girl Scouts Susitna Council serves girls in 45 communities in south central Alaska. This past year, community partnerships made it possible for our girl membership to increase to 5,560 – the largest membership in the history of the Council. Thanks to the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club and supporters like you, outreach to girls and support for quality programs that encourage girls in a vast array of fields (including math, science, sports, and the arts) continues throughout our communities.

This past year, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of Encampment, continued our Women of Science program, day camp, international and national events, extended the GirlSports program into several rural communities, and the board adopted goals through 2002. As we celebrate our history, we also embrace the future. We thank you for supporting girls and programs that benefit the girls and strengthen our community at large by helping provide tools that mold and shape our leaders of tomorrow.

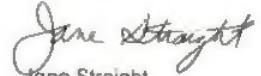
Thanks to your generous support in the form of a check for \$4165, we are able to purchase kayaks for our camp and outdoor program. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,



Carol Scott
President, Board of Directors

Sincerely,



Jane Straight
Executive Director

nb



Girl Scouts Susitna Council
3911 Turnagain Boulevard East
Anchorage, Alaska 99517
(907) 248-2250 • 1-(800) 478-7448
Fax: (907) 243-4819
www.girlscouts.ak.org



Finally, an online auction for Hams, by Hams

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Happy Hammin',

Nick Smith, W4GKM
Editor

P.S. If you sell something, build your \$2 listing fee and 2% commission into the reserve bid and there's nothing to lose. Check out Auctions today at www.amradiotrader.com!

The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club News

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, Inc
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Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1987

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Roger Hansen KL7HFQ L036
POB 520343
Big Lake AK 99652-0343

Subject: FCC Announces Restructuring
Date: Thu, 30 Dec 1999 16:07:20 -0500
From: "Jahnke, Bart, W9JJ" bjahnke@arrl.org

Dear VE:

The FCC today announced their restructuring details. The ARRL has summarized them, and you will find them on the ARRLWeb home page (see the special bullet regarding this item) at <http://www.arrl.org/>.

The full text the report and order can be view on the FCC web site at http://www.fcc.gov/Daile_Releases/Daily_Business/1999/db991230/fcc99412.txt. The ARRL VEC should be able to answer any questions on this material early next week.

Have a very happy new year!

73,

Bart J. Jahnke, W9JJ
Manager
ARRL VEC